



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

13 September 2009

Ordinary 24



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck

Sunday 20 September - Ordinary 25

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs E. Robinson-Morley
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs E Robinson-Morley
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1. Jer 11:18-20

2. James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a 3. Mark 9: 38-50

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mollie and Deryck Cutler in celebration of their wedding anniversary and in loving memory of their daughter Jeani.

The flowers at St Mark's this week are given by Doreen Smart -: "In thanks to God for bringing me to my 90th Birthday."

The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman will be taking worship this morning at Sharnbrook Methodist Church

Prayer for Sunday

Lord of light – shine on us;
Lord of peace – dwell in us;
Lord of might – succour us;
Lord of love – enfold us;
Lord of wisdom – enlighten us.
Then, Lord, let us go out as your witnesses,
in obedience to your commands;
to share the good news
of your mighty love for us
in the gift of your Son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

A prayer for Mission – from the Church in Wales

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisIsChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisIsChurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 21 September Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461
- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting September 8 A.G.M.. Details from Betty Wyatt ☎ 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 September Digital switchover. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 16 September 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎ 365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
- 6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley☎ 347073
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 16 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
 11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St

Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086
12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
 6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854
7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
Young Embroiders bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515
6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov
St Mark's Leadership Team – 14 September
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting - 22 September 4.30pm
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—16 September 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's 15 September 7.30pm
Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church 16 September at 7.30pm
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –12th October

Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 24

Opening Verses of Scripture—Psalm 116:1-8

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*

Gracious God, like a mother you give us new life, and make us your children in Jesus Christ. Look on us in your love, and bring us to the inheritance which you promised. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.
(Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

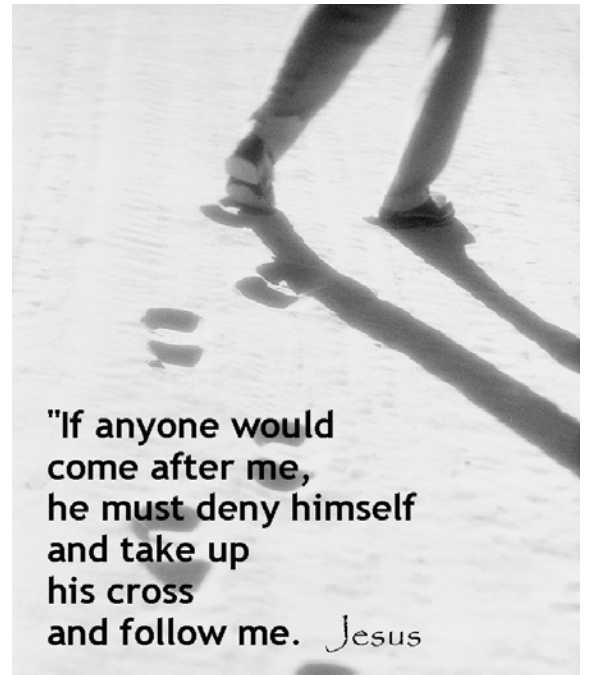
Second Reading - James 3:1-12

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 8:27-38

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in



mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Hymns (*Please distribute morning worship and Mission Praise*)

1. Tell out my soul 631
2. I have decided to follow Jesus 272
3. The servant of the living God (Tune Old 100th) *On Partnership News page 8*
4. Great is thy faithfulness 200
5. Healing God 226 (Tune Hyfrodol)

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Commentary

The people who listened to Jesus were right to recognise him as the Messiah, the Christ. He was not a forerunner, somebody sent to prepare the way, he was the way. He was the fulfilment of all the hopes and dreams of the Jewish people. God had kept his promise, he had sent in Jesus not a prophet, not a person to speak about what God was like, it was God himself in human form. It was most wonderful. The Jews who heard Jesus and who recognised who he was could have been forgiven for assuming that this meant that as Messiah Jesus would be the one who would raise Israel up from under Roman occupation and restore her fortunes as a nation. The role of Messiah had military and political expectations which they could justifiably expect Jesus to carry out.

The air would have been filled with excitement at being in the presence of one who was about to reverse the fortunes of the downtrodden Israelites. Peter and disciples must have had in their minds episodes from the history of Israel, such as when Moses freed the people from Pharaoh. Once more God was about to do a great thing and the opportunity to be a part of it must have been elating.

Imagine the disappointment then when Jesus acknowledges the fact that he is the Messiah, but then says he is going to be captured and put to death. How on earth could they convince anybody to follow a leader who was already predicting his own failure and demise? Jesus insists on honesty, they must not lead anybody into false expectations or misguided hopes. Anybody who wanted to follow would be a part of a movement which was destined to suffering and hardship.

The disciples found it almost impossible to understand Jesus. Later we read that Jesus gathered his disciples together and made his teaching really explicit. He broke bread as a visual aid, to help them understand that his body was going to be broken. His blood was going to be poured out, just as he gave them wine to drink. The disciples found such ideas beyond comprehension, they wanted the inauguration of the Kingdom of God, the new Golden Age.

This is an important lesson to learn, for many are deceived in their faith by imagining that faith in Christ acts like a barrier against trial and tribulation. Some are wrongly advised that the trusting soul is not occasioned by adversity to the same degree as those who live without the Christian religion. How easy it would be to stand in the pulpit and declare that the act of faith works to bring health and wealth and immunity from the dangers which trouble others. How easy and yet how false.

Thomas a Kempis wrote of those who have taken up the cross of Jesus Christ

'They are proved by tolerance of injuries, and the removal of internal consolations; by the death of friends, and by the loss of property; by pains in the head, and injuries in the limbs; by abstinence from food, and roughness of garments; by the hardness of their bed, and the coldness of their feet; by the long watches of the night, and the labours of the day; by silence of the mouth, and reproofs of superiors; by worms that gnaw, and tongues that detract. In their sufferings, however, they are consoled by the devout meditation of the Lord's Passion.'

Nobody could accuse him of trying to pull the wool over the eyes of potential converts!

We must not expect special favours from God because of our faith. Christian commitment does not grant us immunity from the pains of life associated with our mortal bodies and a fragile planet. A most cursory glance at the misfortunes which afflict the lives of people across the world from Darfur to Iraq, must convince anybody with half a brain, that God is not in the business of sparing people from even the most dreadful atrocities. The idea that we worship a God who will through our prayers reward us with new jobs or girlfriends, whilst being seemingly oblivious to the plight of millions who seek only enough food and water to remain alive, is simply ridiculous. Such belief turns God into a monster from whom we would do better to run away than to fall down and worship.

The life of the Christian is not for those seeking an escape, it is just another way of walking the same path of life, with its many adversities and dangers. The difference is that as we walk we are accompanied along the path by one who has walked this path before and who promises to be with us as we pass over to the other side. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

A woman went to St. Francis of Assisi and asked what she had to do to be forgiven for her gossiping. St. Francis told her to take feathers and place one at the doorstep of everyone she had spoken ill of in the town. She did so and returned to the wise saint. Francis told her to then go and retrieve all the feathers. When she attempted to do so, they were all gone. By that time the feathers were scattered all around town. Once again, she returned to St. Francis and told him about the feathers. He said to her: You wish to repent and be forgiven of your sin. Good. But the damage of your words is done and can not be taken back.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Wonderful God, Almighty Redeemer - you have declared your love for us not only in words, but in deeds. We thank you for the love you have revealed through Christ Jesus, our Lord and for how you have granted us by his death and resurrection victory over the sin that is in us and in the world. We praise you for inviting us to be a part of your family and for reaching out to us when we have wandered from the path. Be with us this day as we worship you and listen to your word. Grant that we may be renewed in body and spirit that we might more worthily serve and adore you. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

We are on the way again Lord - the time of busyness. The time of new schooling, Of new activities in church and in the community. We ask you to bless our activities - our special services - our ways of doing things, our volunteers - and those who continue to serve as faithfully as they have for many years.... Amen.

God, the source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gracious Father, fill your whole Church with truth and peace; where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; and where it is divided and torn asunder, heal and bind its wounds; through Christ our Lord. Amen William Laud, 1573-1645

Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The youth team at Putnoe would like to launch The Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, where via the Samaritans Purse organisation filled boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items the children will pack the boxes, alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November so please start collecting now—soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationary items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper Please leave at Putnoe office for the youth team. Thank you.

1st Putnoe Brownies kindly ask for donations of empty clean baked bean tins and glass paints. Items can be left at Putnoe for Liz. Thank you

Beds, Essex, Herts, Women's Network. District Day on 22 September 10.30—3.30 at Bishops Stortford Methodist Church, South Street, Bishops Stortford. The Induction Service of Brenda Veitch as District President will take place A 2pm.

Autumn Craft Day 2009 will be held on 17 October from 9.45 to 4.30 at Priory Methodist Church. £4 per half day session. For booking form please contact Pam Seymour 305695 or 01296 485087

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 4 October at 1pm. Tickets now available from Putnoe Office or Sue Allen. Two courses, soft drinks & coffee. Bring your own wine. Adults £6, children under 10 £3.

Community Police Surgery has restarted at Putnoe Heights. The police will be in attendance [subject to operational requirements] every Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm..

St Mark's Organ Fund

We are delighted that the organ fund at St mark's has now reached £5,000 thank you to all of those who have contributed towards the fund



Bedford Citizens Advice Bureau is opening for 1 hour every Thursday between 11am and 12noon at Putnoe Heights Church.

Evening in aid of Local Hospices

Sounds Familiar and other local choirs/groups are presenting a Musical "Allsorts" Evening in aid of Voices for Hospices, a wave of simultaneous concerts around the world. This will be held on Sat. 10th Oct. at 7.30p.m. in the Salvation Army Congress Hall, Commercial Rd. Bedford.

Refreshments will be available. Tickets are £6.50, under 16's £5 and are obtainable from David on 01234 750869 or Becky on 01234 750320. The local hospices that will benefit from this event will be Sue Ryder St. Johns at Moggerhanger, Bedford Day Hospice and Keech Cottage Children's Hospice

Visit our online chapel

We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit thischurch.com and click on the candle.

Macmillan Coffee Morning Valerie and Peter Littleford will be holding a coffee morning at their house, 1 Bindon Abbey, Bedford on Friday 25th September from 10.00 - 12.00 to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Support. There will be a 'Bring and Buy', raffle, and a selection of Macmillan Cards on sale. Do come and join us if you can - even if it's only to have a cup of coffee! Hope to see you! Valerie and Peter.



A plea from Hazeldene Heights Pre-School Is there anyone kind enough to volunteer to make the play dough each week. Jo Barrow has kindly done this for over 2 years and now wants to retire.

Thank you very much Jo it has been very much appreciated. The staff do appreciate the help as they are very busy with other jobs. It is a very simple job. For more information see Janet Smith. Thank you.

Are you thinking about who might come for Christmas this year? Perhaps you would like to make it a bit different. Some of the adults from overseas who are currently studying at UK universities would love to spend a couple of days in a real home, rather than on a deserted campus. It is interesting to share Christmas with people for whom it is all quite new (many international students are from China, for example). HOST has been linking students with hospitable volunteers for 22 years, at Christmas and also one-off weekends throughout the year. HOST is a registered charity backed by the Foreign Office and many universities. It is not necessary for hosts to live near a university, as students are prepared to travel far for this unique experience! See www.hostuk.org or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser Paul Ryall, on 01296 634929. Thank you!

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 The servant of the living God
is found among the humble poor;
in their oppression he will share,
and human dignity restore.
- 2 The Servant now we recognise
as Son of man and Son of God;
then let us follow, not obstruct,
the painful path of hope he trod.
- 3 He calls us to a living faith,
to costly love in action shown;
for faith itself is counted dead,
unless in caring works made known.
- 4 O give us faith, eternal God,
among the poor to take our place,
and let our words and actions show
the presence of undying grace.

Tune Old 100th

Harvest Festival

Harvest festival this year is on October 4 and the theme will be 'Sharing our gifts'. We will be asking three people from each of our congregations to share with us what they do in their lives and asking them to bring an item which illustrates their work which we will celebrate at Harvest.

*Who sweeps a room as by God's laws,
makes that and the action fine*

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

Bert Howe

*May the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy of God,
rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.'*



If any one will follow



*"Those who want to save their life
will lose it,
and those who lose their life
for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel,
will save it."*

To be a Christian
is not for the faint hearted,
nor even for the strong,
but only for the faithful,
who dare to trust the Lord.

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Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of George Edward Page will take place on
Wednesday 23 September at St Mark's Church at 3.30pm